

ENGINEER'S OFFICE, BALT. AND OHIO RAIL ROAD,
Baltimore, February 10th, 1843.

TO JAMES HARWOOD, ESQ.

Chairman of Committee, &c. &c.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of the following order passed by the House of Delegates on the 28th ultimo:

“Ordered, That the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company be requested to inform this House, how long Louis McLane, Esq. has been president of that corporation, and what amount of compensation he has received for salary, extra allowances, or in any other manner, so as to shew the aggregate sum received by the said Louis McLane, Esq. from said company; and the space of time in which he performed the services for which such compensation was paid; and, whether the amount of officers' salaries have been increased or diminished since the present president of the company came into office, and to what extent, and whether the number of officers has been increased or diminished, and to what extent.”

In obedience to instructions I have prepared, in answer to the latter clause of said order, the accompanying tabular statement, which, together with the following explanations and remarks, I respectfully beg leave to submit.

In preparing the “tabular statement,” I have as far as practicable, separated the engineer department, as connected with the construction of the road, from the departments necessary for the efficient and economical working of the road when finished.—This was deemed necessary in order to shew clearly the relative economy in the working of the finished parts of the road between former and late years; my explanation and remarks will therefore be divided under two general heads, viz:

The engineer department charged with the surveys, location and construction, and the departments for working the roads which are subdivided into three minor departments, viz: a department of accounts, a department of transportation, and a department of repairs.

I.—ENGINEER DEPARTMENT.

On the first of July 1837, the engineer department was composed of seven officers, as designated in the table, and was principally engaged in making surveys with a view to the extension of the road to the Ohio river. During the winter of '37 and '38, surveys were made with a view to the re-location of parts of the old road east of Harpers Ferry. On the 1st of April, 1838, the officers in this department had been increased one in number, and were still engaged in duties relating to surveys for the extension of the road to the Ohio river, and the re-construction of portions of the road east of Harpers Ferry.